AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-101. (Canceled)

102. (Currently amended) A device for treatment of an intervertebral disc wall comprising:

a main body portion having a distal and a proximal end,

an extension having an axis projecting along a respective reference plane, said reference plane extending substantially laterally from the main body portion;

wherein said extension is constructed such that said axis can flexibly deflect from its respective reference plane, ~~and~~

~~at least one fixation element configured to extend at least partially into annular tissue~~

wherein the main body portion does not have any said extension at its proximal end.

103. (Previously presented) The device of claim 102, further comprising one or more surgical sutures.

104. (Previously presented) The device of claim 103, wherein said sutures are biodegradable.

105. (Previously presented) The device of claim 103, wherein said sutures further comprise at least one knot.

106. (Previously presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said main body portion is shaped to form a compatible fit with at least a portion of the edges of an aperture in an intervertebral disc wall.

107. (Previously presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said at least one extension is of substantially uniform thickness.

108. (Canceled).

109. (Currently amended) The device of claim 102, further comprising ~~wherein said fixation element comprises~~ one or more barbs.

110. (Currently amended) The device of claim 102, further comprising ~~wherein said fixation element comprises~~ one or more tension bands.

111 (Currently amended) The device of claim 102, further comprising ~~wherein said fixation element comprises~~ one or more staples.

112. (Previously presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said main body portion and at least one extension are formed as a unitary device.

113. (Canceled).

114. (Previously presented) The device of claim 102 wherein said device is comprised of one or more biocompatible or bioresorbable materials.

115. (Previously presented) The device of claim 114, wherein said device is comprised of a matrix or mesh of biocompatible or bioresorbable fibers.

116. (Previously presented) The device of claim 114, wherein said device is comprised of a biocompatible or bioresorbable membrane.

117. (Previously presented) The device of claim 114, wherein said device is comprised of a biocompatible or bioresorbable fabric.

118. (Previously presented) The device of claim 114, wherein said device comprises a biodegradable substrate.

119. (Previously presented) The device of claim 114, wherein said device comprises an expandable polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE).

120. (Previously presented) The device of claim 114, wherein said device comprises a polymer material.

121. (Previously presented) The device of claim 120, wherein said device comprises a polymeric sheet.

122. (Previously presented) The device of claim 120, wherein said device comprises a polymeric fabric.

123. (Previously presented) The device of claim 120, wherein said device comprises a polymeric mesh.

124. (Previously presented) The device of claim 120, wherein said device comprises polymeric fibers.

125. (Previously presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said device comprises a collagenous material.

126. (Previously presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said device comprises hygroscopic material.

127. (Previously presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said device comprises materials to facilitate regeneration of disc tissue.

128. (Previously presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said device comprises bioactive silica-based material.

129. (Previously presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said device comprises a growth factor.

130. (Previously presented) The device of claim 102, wherein the device is flexibly resilient.

131. (Previously presented) The device of claim 102, wherein at least a portion of the device is porous.

132. (Previously presented) The device of claim 102, wherein at least a portion of the device is non-porous.

133. (Previously presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said at least one extension is reversibly deformable to allow, in use, insertion into an aperture of an intervertebral disc and to subsequently expand conforming said device to the shape of a portion of the inner wall of an annulus.

134-136. (Canceled).

137. (Previously presented) The device of claim 102, having a first and a second extension.

138. (Previously presented) The device of claim 137, wherein said respective axes of said first and second extensions lie in reference planes oriented in a range of 0° to 60° to each other when said extensions are undeflected.

139. (Previously presented) The device of claim 138, wherein said respective axes of said first and second extensions lie in the same reference plane when said extensions are undeflected.

140. (Canceled).

141. (Currently amended) A device for treatment of an intervertebral disc wall comprising:

a main body portion having a distal and a proximal end,

an extension having an axis projecting along a respective reference plane, said reference plane extending substantially laterally from the main body portion;

wherein said extension is constructed such that said axis can flexibly deflect from its respective reference plane, ~~and~~

at least one receptacle configured to receive a fixation element,

wherein the main body portion does not have any said extension at its proximal end.

142. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, wherein said at least one receptacle comprises a slot.

143. (Canceled).

144. (Canceled).

145. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, further comprising one or more surgical sutures.

146. (Previously presented) The device of claim 145, wherein said sutures are biodegradable.

147. (Previously presented) The device of claim 145, wherein said sutures further comprise at least one knot.

148. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, wherein said main body portion is shaped to form a compatible fit with the edges of at least a portion of an aperture in an intervertebral disc wall.

149. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, wherein said at least one extension is of substantially uniform thickness.

150. (Canceled).

151. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, further comprising one or more barbs.

152. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, further comprising one or more tension bands.

153. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, further comprising one or more staples.

154. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, wherein said main body portion and at least one extension are formed as a unitary device.

155. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, wherein said main body portion, at least one extension, and said receptacle are formed as a unitary device.

156. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, wherein said device is comprised of one or more biocompatible or bioresorbable materials.

157. (Previously presented) The device of claim 156, wherein said device is comprised of a matrix or mesh of biocompatible or bioresorbable fibers.

158. (Previously presented) The device of claim 156, wherein said device is comprised of a biocompatible or bioresorbable membrane.

159. (Previously presented) The device of claim 156, wherein said device is comprised of a biocompatible or bioresorbable fabric.

160. (Previously presented) The device of claim 156, wherein said device comprises a biodegradable substrate.

161. (Previously presented) The device of claim 156, wherein said device comprises an expandable polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE).

162. (Previously presented) The device of claim 156, wherein said device comprises a polymer material.

163. (Previously presented) The device of claim 162, wherein said device comprises a polymeric sheet.

164. (Previously presented) The device of claim 162, wherein said device comprises a polymeric fabric.

165. (Previously presented) The device of claim 162, wherein said device comprises a polymeric mesh.

166. (Previously presented) The device of claim 162, wherein said device comprises polymeric fibers.

167. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, wherein said device comprises a collagenous material.

168. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, wherein said device comprises hygroscopic material.

169. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, wherein said device comprises materials to facilitate regeneration of disc tissue.

170. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, wherein said device comprises bioactive silica-based material.

171. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, wherein said device comprises a growth factor.

172. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, wherein the device is flexibly resilient.

173. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, wherein at least a portion of the device is porous.

174. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, wherein at least a portion of the device is non-porous.

175. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, wherein said at least one extension is reversibly deformable to allow, in use, insertion into an aperture of an intervertebral disc and to subsequently expand conforming said device to the shape of a portion of the inner wall of an annulus.

176-178. (Canceled).

179. (Previously presented) The device of claim 141, having a first and a second extension.

180. (Previously presented) The device of claim 179, wherein said respective axes of said first and
second extensions lie in reference planes oriented in a range of 0° to 60° to each other when said extensions are undeflected.

181. (Previously presented) The device of claim 180, wherein said respective axes of said first and second extensions lie in the same reference plane when said extensions are undeflected.

182. (Canceled).